

### **REMARKS**

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of February 25, 2009. The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,384,634 to Takehara et al. ("Takehara").

Applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify the present invention. More specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly claim the movement of the paper bunch. Support for the amendment is found in Page 3, line 25 through Page 4, line 23, Page 16, line 25 to Page 17, line 14, and throughout the specification. No new matter is being added.

#### **Rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Takehara**

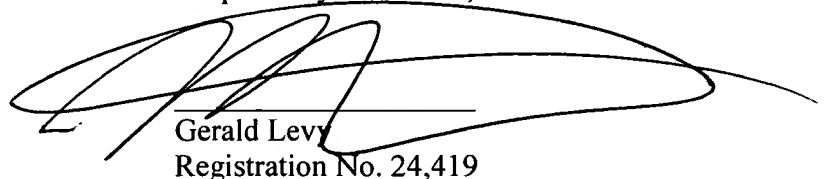
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 are not anticipated by Takehara. More specifically Takehara fails to disclose all the elements of the present invention. Takehara specifically does not disclose a holding means capable of transferring a paper bunch in opposite directions like the present invention. The present claim requires the paper bunch matched to be transferred in "first direction opposite to said one end of said sheet bunch matched at the matching means" by the first holding means, and "then subsequently gripping and conveying said sheet bunch forward in a second direction toward said one end of said sheet bunch" by the first holding means. Also, first stapling occurs after the sheet bunch is gripped by the first holding means and conveyed in the first direction. Once the first stapling occurs, the first holding means grips and conveys the sheet bunch to the second direction. The second holding means then grips the sheet bunch while the second stapling occurs. Once the second stapling is completed, the second holding means transfers the stapled sheet bunch further to the second direction.

The Office Action identifies elements 1107 and 38 of Takehara as a holding means. However, element 1107 is identified as a returning member and as a returning rod in Takehara. See Column 12, lines 9 through 19 and Figure 15. Also, element 38 is identified as an aligning member and it is also rod shaped. See Column 12, line 21 and Figure 15. Since rod shaped object is not capable of holding or gripping the paper bunch, it is only capable of pushing the paper bunch in one direction. However, the two holding means of the present invention as claimed grip and convey the paper bunch, regardless of whether the paper bunch is stapled or not. Further, as for the first holding means, it conveys the paper bunch in two opposite directions. A rod shaped member as disclosed in Takehara is not capable of conveying unstapled paper bunch in any direction since it will not be able to grip the unstapled paper bunch.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully state that Takehara does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. A withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

A request for one month extension of time and fees are enclosed. Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account: 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,



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